GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2477
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Trade Agreement with European Countries
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is negotiating free trade agreement with European countries for boosting textile export so that the country is able to take on the challenges being posed by countries like Bangladesh;

(b) whether his Ministry is in contact with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons behind non-approval of the free trade agreement by the Government;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to boost the exports and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the concessions being offered by the Government for promoting the textile Industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI AJAY TAMTA)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam, India is negotiating a Broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (India-EU BTIA) with the European Union. The negotiation started in 2007 and sixteen rounds of negotiations have been held so far. However, there has been no agreement reached in India-EU BTIA so far. Ministry of Textile is in constant touch with Ministry of Commerce in this regard.

(d): The government is implementing schemes like Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojna (PMPRPY), Scheme of Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) on export of garments, Schemes for Technical textiles Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme etc. to modernize textile industry, increase production and global competitiveness.

(e): Apart from the steps taken by the Government mentioned in reply of (d) above, the Government has taken following initiatives to augment the textile exports:-

(i) MEIS Scheme under new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.
(ii) Restoring Interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector,
(iii) Expanding the scope of Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) since 29.10.2015 to 110 new tariff lines and increase rates or country coverage or both for 2228 existing tariff lines.
(iv) Increased Duty Drawback rates for some textile articles.
(v) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.
(vi) Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.
(vii) Duty Free import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified item under Export Performance Certificate Entitlement Scheme.

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